

REMARKS

The provisional rejection of Claims 7-10 and 21-30 on grounds of alleged obviousness-type double patenting over Claim 8 of Application Serial No. 09/631,625 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,501,617) is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office Action premises this rejection on the erroneous conclusion that the respective claimed structures are identical. That is certainly not correct in light of the now-claimed structures.

The Office Action also acknowledges that the claimed structure in said application (the '617 Patent) do not even suggest the presence of bonding marks, and further acknowledges that the marks would not be present in the finished article. This is totally contrary to the description in the present application with regard to Figs. 3, 8, 10, 14 and 15 from which it is clear that indeed two step marks do remain in a manner not suggested in the '617 Patent or claimed therein. Claim 8 of the '617 Patent recites that the recess comprises a pair of annular grooves in the outer peripheries of the part of the shaft, and the plastic flow of the material substantially fills both of the annular grooves. That is, the grooves in Claim 8 of the '617 Patent are annular grooves 31 formed around the shaft 1. Even though such grooves formed around the shaft are also common to the present application, the present invention involves the formation of a preliminary bonding mark 71 and a plastic flow bonding mark formed in the

bottom portion 72. The two marks are not formed in the product described in the '617 Patent. Only one plastic bonding mark or flange 24 is formed there, because the plastic bonding is carried out in one step.

The rejection of Claims 7-10 and 21-30 as being anticipated by JP '268 and of Claims 7-10 as being anticipated by Tatsumi et al., both under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), are traversed, and reconsideration of each rejection is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

The JP '268 document corresponds to the '617 Patent already discussed. Neither document even suggests the claimed invention herein.

The same is true with regard to the Tatsumi et al. patent. It certainly does not disclose two step plastic flow bonding. As previously mentioned, filling of the annular grooves with metal is not germane to the present invention. The Tatsumi et al. method suggests nothing whatsoever about a preliminary bonding step which, in the present invention, permits even a small pressure to be effectively applied at the bonding position without deformation. Such an approach eliminates the need for a post machining apparatus. In other words, the thus-produced product can be installed in its "as is" condition.

Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited. In the event, however, that the Examiner has any remaining questions before further action in this case, the undersigned would appreciate the opportunity to have a

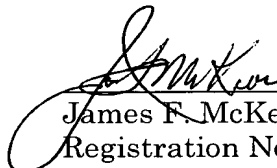
personal interview with the Examiner in an effort to reduce issues and streamline prosecution.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056208.52811US).

Respectfully submitted,

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James F. McKeown
Registration No. 25,406

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JFM:tas
#2977360